1. What is your opinion of the statement "iPads improve classroom instruction?"

Totally agree because it gives us access to the 21st century and to the Internet and to the unlimited information that goes with it – it’s relevant and it’s utilizing a tool that will be used for a long while.

2.  How much training do teachers require to effectively use iPads in the classroom?

Totally depends on the teacher, so if a teacher is already proficient with the tools, then you don’t need much training at all. Like for example, my school is using Showbie (app). About half my school’s staff required training – formal training (training days) and informal training days, and some days where teachers who are more proficient help teachers who are less proficient.

\*Showbie – format for exchanging notes and taking tests and exams (mostly used for grades 11 & 12 at his school)

3. How have you used the iPad in your class?

The Washington Post (day in photos), the kids have to look at the photo and then use the iPad to perform some research, and to improve their non-fiction skills. It’s how we warm up. The kids now seem clueless when it decoding non-fiction reading, so it’s a way to improve those other skills. They also blog – I ask them a question of the day, and post a web address, and they all navigate to that specific web site. I used wordpress.com. The way I do it, it’s all anonymous, so that way, they can’t make fun of each other.

4. How have your students responded to the iPad?

They are naturals at it; more natural than cracking open a book, as sad as that may seem. It’s sort of a way to “sneak in” the learning.

5. What are some drawbacks of using the iPad?

The camera is always a challenge; they can take pictures of anything and then set it as a home screen on the device. They can leave messages for the next period because they…not physically possible to check the contents of all 27 iPads in that 3-minute period in-between classes…so really, though, there’s nothing that outweighs the benefits.

6. How much of an impact do finances/funding factor in with iPad use in the classroom?

Administration would know way more about the details, but in the long run, we will be saving money, because of not purchasing textbooks. For years, textbooks giants have been making a killing of schools – you know, $100 and $200 apiece for textbooks. So this wil save much more money, moving forward. Also, currency of a text is no longer an issue because we can just download the texts from the Internet.